

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 07050 200224Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2961
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 07050

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, CH, AL
SUBJECT: ALBANIAN-PRC RELATIONS
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1. THERE FOLLOWS AN ACCOUNT PROVIDED BY FRENCH
DELEGATION OF A RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH
AMBASSADOR IN TIRANA AND ALBANIAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS NUSHI ON THE CESSATION OF PRC AID
TO ALBANIA.

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2. BEGIN FRENCH PAPER

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NUSHI INDICATED THAT TIRANA WILL SOON MAKE KNOWN DETAILS
ON THE CESSATION OF CHINESE AID TO ALBANIA BY PUBLISHING
DOCUMENTS WHICH WILL SHOW THAT CHINA IS ALONE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE DETERIORATION OF STATE AND IDEOLOGICAL
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PAGE 02 USNATO 07050 200224Z

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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HE SAID THE CHINESE DECISION HAD NOT BEEN A SURPRISE
FOR ALBANIA. ALBANIA HAD BEEN EXPECTING IT FOR SEVERAL
YEARS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE TIME WHEN PEKING HAD EXERTED
PRESSURES ON ALBANIA WHICH WOULD HAVE LED TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE COMMON

MARKET AND WITH THE US IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS. ALBANIA HAD OPPOSED THIS, AS IT HAD OPPOSED PRESSURE TO "MUZZLE" HER.

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ACCORDING TO NUSHI, CHINA TRIED TO HINDER ALBANIA FROM CRITICIZING CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY, NOTABLY AFTER THE 1971 NIXON MEETING WITH MAO TSE-TUNG AND AFTER TRIPS BY KISSINGER TO PEKING. HE STRESSED THAT NO COUNTRY COULD SUBMIT ALBANIA TO SUCH PRESSURE: "ALBANIA AND ITS PARTY ARE AND WILL REMAIN FREE AND WILL NEVER DEVIATE FROM TRUE MARXIST - LENINISM."

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A LARGE COUNTRY LIKE CHINA SHOULD NEVER CONDUCT ITSELF AS IT HAD JUST DONE WITH A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE ALBANIA, BUT THE CHINESE DECISION DID NOT BOTHER ALBANIA, WHICH HAD FORESEEN THE DECISION AND HAD TAKEN MEASURES IN GOOD TIME TO DEAL WITH IT. HOWEVER, NUSHI RECOGNIZED THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO PAY HIGHER PRICES FOR INDISPENSABLE MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS AND RAW MATERIALS WHICH PEKING HAD SOLD, NOT ONLY AT PREFERENTIAL PRICES, BUT ALSO WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ASSISTANCE (THAT IS TO SAY, ON CREDIT). NUSHI SAID WITH A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE THAT ALBANIA IS CAPABLE OF COMPLETING UNFINISHED PROJECTS, EVEN THE ELBASSAN STEEL MILL.

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ACCORDING TO OUR AMBASSADOR, THE ALBANIANS MAY HAVE BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USNATO 07050 200224Z

EXPECTING THE CHINESE DECISION, BUT HAD NOT THOUGHT, APPARENTLY, THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN SO SOON. END TEXT. BENNETT

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